

✓15. (New) A process according to claim 14, wherein said noble gas is argon.

✓16. (New) A process according to claim 14, wherein said at least one gaseous hydrocarbon is a saturated hydrocarbon.

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✓17. (New) A process according to claim 16, wherein said saturated hydrocarbon is methane.

✓18. (New) A process according to claim 16, wherein said saturated hydrocarbon is selected from the group consisting of ethane, propane and butane.

Contd.
✓19. (New) A process according to claim 14, wherein oxygen is additionally added to the coating atmosphere.

✓20. (New) A process according to claim 19, wherein the volumetric ratio of added hydrocarbon to added oxygen is in the range of 3:1 to 1:3.

✓21. (New) A process according to claim 19, wherein the volumetric ratio of added hydrocarbon to added oxygen is 1:1.

✓22. (New) A process according to claim 19, wherein the volumetric ratio of noble gas to oxygen is in the range of 3:1 to 1:3

✓23. (New) A process according to claim 22, wherein said noble gas is argon.

✓24. (New) A process according to claim 22, wherein the volumetric ratio of noble gas to oxygen is 1:1.

25. (New) A process according to claim 14, wherein operation takes place at a total pressure of the coating atmosphere of 0.3×10^{-2} mbar to 10^{-1} mbar.

26. (New) A process according to claim 25, wherein operation takes place at a total pressure of the coating atmosphere of 1×10^{-2} mbar to 4×10^{-2} mbar.

27. (New) A process according to claim 14, wherein a target consisting of tungsten or of a tungsten alloy is used.

28. (New) A process according to claim 14, wherein a target containing at least one of molybdenum, titanium, cerium, vanadium or zirconium is used.

29. (New) A process according to claim 14, wherein the electrochromic coating is applied to a thickness in the range of 50 nm to 500 nm.

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested in light of the above amendments and the following detailed discussion.

Claims 12, 13 and 14 to 29, inclusive, are currently pending in the application. Claims 12 and 13 stand withdrawn from further consideration in this application as being drawn to a non-elected invention. Applicants hereby affirm their election of the claims of Group I (process claims) made by their attorney during a telephone conference on July 24, 2002. New claims 14-29 read on the elected invention.

Cancelled claims 1-11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the invention. These claims included the recitation "in particular" in defining certain preferred embodiments of the invention. New claims 14-29 have been redrafted to eliminate these recitations. Withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. is accordingly requested.